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John Allen Chalk: Personal Correspondence

John Allen Chalk

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5-12-1960

From: Brad Brumley (5/12/60)

Brad Brumley

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### Recommended Citation

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# FREED-HARDEMAN COLLEGE

A FULLY ACCREDITED JUNIOR COLLEGE

HENDERSON, TENNESSEE

May 12, 1960

Dear John Allen & Family,

I have just gotten back from Lexington and talking to Jimmy. I am glad that I went, even though I have no reason to feel that I contributed to the ultimate solution of the conflicts. I do think, however, that Jimmy appreciated my coming over and showing some concern about the situation. I was with him about an hour. We ate lunch together, and he seemed to enjoy the visit.

I'm afraid that any sort of reconciliation just at this point is hardly probable. As you indicated in our telephone conversation, your daddy is under considerable strain. This tends to build tension, I'm sure, within the entire family. And too, your mother has not stayed right after Jimmy relative his responsibilities at home and his school work. Naturally, in view of the easy-going atmosphere prior to his daddy's return, Jimmy will be inclined to resent any effort on the part of his daddy to reorganize his pattern of life.

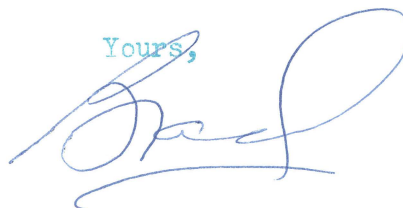
I was careful not to appear censorious, either of Jimmy or his daddy. I merely tried to show him where it would be a serious mistake for him to cut completely loose from his family, and the prospect of going on to school. I took the liberty of suggesting that, in the event he decided for sure that he was going to get away, he try to work out some arrangement with you and Sue whereby he could come, live with you, and go on to school. I told him that he could probably get a part-time job there in Cookeville. However, I tried to impress him with the fact that if he could be reconciled to remaining at home, at least until he finished high school, that he would find later that he did the best thing for everyone concerned. He never did comment one way or the other to that suggestion.

I couldn't find out ~~just~~ just what his immediate plans are, if he actually has any. He said that he had none as yet. I invited him over to our home and to go to Memphis with us Saturday when the Student NEA will make its annual trip to the Cotton Carnival. He will go on to Rector with us for the rest of the weekend. He said that he'd like to go, and would find out tonight if he can go with us. I thought perhaps that the change of "scenery" for a day or two would help the situation somewhat.

The only thing that he really promised was that he would stay and complete this term of school. Except for that, I really didn't get him to express himself too much. He didn't appear to be bitter toward his daddy. He did say that he "was afraid of daddy." But I tried to assure him that, underneath it all, his daddy was very much interested in him, and would do anything for his welfare.

I must quit and get to class. We are looking forward to your meeting with the church at Rector.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "John Allen", written over the word "Yours,".